

10/670,614

03AB070

REMARKS

Claims 1-46 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Applicant's representative notes with appreciation the indication that claims 34-43 are allowable and claims 4, 5, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18-22, 24, 26, 28, 29, 45, and 46 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 44 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter from dependent claims 18 and 45. Claims 18 and 45 has been cancelled without prejudice. In addition, claim 23 has been amended to correct minor informalities. It is believed that claims 1-46 are now in condition for allowance. A version of all pending claims is found at pages 2-8.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments herein.

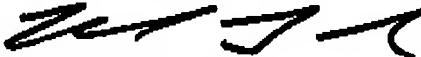
CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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